

four declaration. But we hold to-day what the conference declared anent the Balfour declaration two years ago, that we do not subscribe to the phrase in the declaration which says, "Palestine is to be a national home land for the Jewish people." We believe that Israel, the Jewish people, like every other religious communion, has the right to live, to be at home and to assert its message in every part of the world.

With confidence in the free institutions of Great Britain, we rejoice in and recognize the historic significance of such a British mandate for Palestine, in that it will offer the opportunity to some Jews, who may desire to settle there, to go there and

to live full, free and happy lives. And if facilities are offered for an appreciable number to go there from lands in which they suffer from religion, political or economic persecution, they may be enabled so to shape their communal life that, inspired by the hallowed associations of the land in which Israel's prophets announced world-redeeming ideas, they may become a great spiritual influence.

Historic Event Not the Goulah.

While we thus rejoice, we do not, however, admit that this historic event is what it has been called, the Goulah, the redemption of Israel. Convinced that the mission of the Jew is to witness to God all over the world, emphasizing the religious function of Israel, and rejecting any re-assertion of Jewish nationality, which it has long ago outgrown, we hold that Israel's redemption will only be realized when the Jew will have the right to live in any part of the world, and, all racial and religious prejudice and persecution ended, Israel will be free as a religious power and an integral part of all nations to give world service.

Recognizing the opportunity which Palestine, under the mandate of the British empire, will offer some Jews, the conference reiterates now what it has said many times, that it is the duty of all Jews to contribute to the reconstruction of Palestine, in so far as Jews may place themselves there, and to make it a good place for them to live. But the co-operation of Jews who reject Jewish nationalism is made difficult, nay, impossible, as long as the Zionist organization is committed to such nationalism. For such co-operation would mean the tacit acceptance of the program and ideals of Zionism. We, therefore, hold that it is the duty of all Jews to make clear the character of the practical work now demanded for Palestine, leaving to the Jews there, and not to any partisan organization, to determine their own destiny. We hope that for the sake of unity in Israel, and above all, for the sake of the practical help to Palestinian Jews, some plan for the union of Jewish forces may be devised.

In the present circumstances we declare that while nothing Jewish is alien to our Jewish hearts, and while we are ready to help in the work of rebuilding Palestine for some Jews, we re-emphasize the view of Jewish life for which our conference stands: That Israel is not a nation, but a religious community; that Palestine is not the homeland for the Jewish people, but that the whole world ought to be its home.

In conclusion, we congratulate the President once more and hope that the fine service which his last year's administration gave to American Judaism will stimulate us all to earnest endeavor for the blessing of Israel, and our fellow-men and for the glory of God.

An old painter of Sienna—so the story runs—after standing for a long time in silent meditation before his canvas, with hands crossed meekly on his breast and head bent reverently low, turned, murmuring, "May God forgive me that I did not do it better!" Many people at the close of another year may be disposed to echo the old painter's confession. There are many things in any life that might have been better done, and some things, alas, that ought never to have been done at all. For these failures and mistakes and follies, divine forgiveness must be sought. There is still hope, while life lasts, retrieving in the future many of the slips and blunders of the past.—New York Observer.



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